

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

**I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-13 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 14 and 15 are amended herein.

Claims 2-10 and 15 are "objected to."

New claims 16-24 are added.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14-24 are currently pending and under consideration in the present application.

**II. CLAIM OBJECTION**

On page 2 of the Office Action, claim 15 is "objected to." Claim 15 is amended herein to overcome the objection.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

**III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 and 11-14 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(B) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY KUROSU (USP# 5,123,005)**

Claims 1 and 11-13 are cancelled herein.

The present invention as recited in claim 14, for example, relates to an optical disc changer comprising "a damping unit to absorb shock when the tray is unloaded from the main body."

Kurosu discloses that "the engagement between the loading gear and the rack of the disc tray is released just before the pull-in operation of the disc tray is completed and, at the same time, a cam portion formed on the loading gear comes into engagement with the abutted portion of the disc tray, thereby allowing the disc tray to be subsequently pulled in by the pressing motion of the cam portion to the abutted portion. Thus, the pull-in speed of the disc tray can be reduced just before the completion of the pull-in operation of the disc tray and a shock which occurs upon completion of the pull-in operation of the disc tray can be reduced. Due to this, a shock sound by the collision of the disc tray and the member on the casing side for

restricting the pull-in position of the disc tray and the shock to the disc player by such a collision are eliminated, thereby raising the quality of the disc player." See Abstract of Kurosu.

Further, in column 13, lines 23-26, Kurosu discloses that when the slide tray 7 reaches the pull-in position, abutting members 14 elastically come into contact with stopper members 6 in a state in which they are slightly depressed.

In light of the above-mentioned disclosure of Kurosu, it is respectfully submitted that a pull-in and pull-out speed of the disc tray of Kurosu is being controlled in order to reduce shock. Thus, the stopping member 6 of Kurosu is not a damping unit. In other words, the stopping member 6 does not reduce or absorb shock like the claimed damping unit, which absorbs shock when a tray is unloaded.

Therefore, Kurosu does not disclose the features recited in claim 14 of the present application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

#### **IV. NEW CLAIMS**

New claim 16 recites "a stop member and a hook step provided at the tray and the main body, respectively, to prevent the tray from escaping from the main body during unloading" and "a damper to absorb an impact when the stop member and the hook step bump against each other," which distinguish over the cited prior art. New claims 17-24 depend from claim 16. Thus, for at least the reasons that claim 16 distinguishes over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 17-24 also distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 16-24 distinguish over the cited prior art.

#### **V. CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: Derrick L. Fields  
Derrick L. Fields  
Registration No. 50,133

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501